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VOL. 94—NO. 13 | The Associated Press, New York Times News Service, NEA Service and AP Wirephoto | THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 1970

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Second-Class Postage Paid at New Orleans, La. PRICE 10c

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Rap Chandler

Solons Plan To Recall Writer

By BILL LYNCH
(States-Item Bureau)

BATON ROUGE — A report by the legislative committee investigating organized crime is expected to charge that Life magazine writer David Chandler refused to answer questions at an abortive meeting between the author and the committee earlier this month.

The report, scheduled for release this afternoon at a press conference in the state capitol, will deny it was the committee's intentions to learn Chandler's sources of information.

The confrontation between the New Orleans-based writer and the committee broke up after Chandler's attorney advised him not to answer certain questions, charging it was the committee's intention to get at the sources of information.

THE REPORT will contend the line of questioning was followed in an effort to establish a trend.

Sen. Adrian G. Duplantier, chairman of the Mafia investigating committee, called for a press conference to make public the report, which already is late.

The committee was supposed to report back to the legislature 20 days prior to the end of the 60-day session July 9. However, mechanical problems in getting the report finished and reproduced have been cited as delaying factors.

The committee will note it plans to continue its work after the session is over.

IT WILL declare its investigators have been charged with looking at allegations made by Life magazine in its April article and any other charges of influence on state and local government by orgnized crime.

The report will recount its meetings held thus far, including two public sessions at which four police officials appeared and another at which

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Mafia

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Gov. John J. McKeithen testified.

Police officials generally denied knowledge of any one-man rule by organized crime in their respective areas and McKeithen repeated his earlier claims that the Life article was a smear and a lie.

Other public officials named in the magazine have asked for permission to testify before the committee, which plans to call Chandler next month as its key witness under oatb. The first session with the writer was not under oath, in accordance with an arrangement worked out in federal court.

Life Magazine presently is facing two suits totaling $12 million over the article. The suits were ordered returned to state court by a federal judge.